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BOSTON
1852 · 1878

RULES,

CONFESSION OF FAITH,

AND

COVENANT

OF THE

CHAMBERS STREET CHURCH.

1551.215

ORGANIZED DECEMBER 4, 1861.

BOSTON:
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RULES.

I. All meetings for business, shall be opened with Prayer by one of the Pastors, and in their absence, by the senior officer.

II. The annual meeting of the brethren of the Church shall be held on the last Wednesday in December, at which meeting a Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot, and any other business shall be transacted which may properly be brought before them

III. The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of all the votes and acts of the Church, and when absent a Clerk *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

IV. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the funds of the Church, and shall keep a correct account of the same, and shall report at the annual meeting, the amount received during the year, and how appropriated.

V. The Church will hold a monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, for the transaction of business, and for devotional exercises.

VI. Persons seeking admission to this Church shall be examined at the regular monthly meeting, respecting their evidences of regeneration, and their views of Christian doctrine and duty, and also respecting their religious character and experience. If they are applicants for admission on dismission and recommendation from other churches, their letters of dismission and recommendatiou shall also be examined. If the results of such examinations are satisfactory to the church, the applicants for admission shall be propounded before the Church on the Friday evening next following, and before the whole Congregation on the Sabbath next following.

VII. Candidates for admission to this Church, shall publicly assent to the Confession of Faith of the Church, and own its Covenant.

VIII. Persons who have been propounded one fortnight, shall, if no valid objection has been

made to their admission, be publicly admitted to the Church at the close of the service on the morning of the first Sabbath of each month; after which the Communion shall be administered.

IX. Notice of all meetings of the Church, stating the objects of the meeting, shall be given from the Pulpit.

X. The Church shall meet regularly on Friday evening of each week, for prayer and conference, in order to promote their Christian knowledge and growth in grace.

XI. Members of this Church, who leave the city to reside elsewhere, shall be expected to apply for a letter of dismission and recommendation within one year from the time of their removal from the city, for the purpose of uniting with some other Church, in or near their place of residence, unless they shall give a satisfactory reason for continuing their connection with this Church.

XII. This Church will take a public collection on the first Sabbath of each Quarter, beginning with the first Sabbath in April next, to be applied, subject to the vote of the Church, to the charities of the Chambers Street Chapel.

XIII. This Church shall cordially recognize their obligations in reference to the work of Charity and Benevolence, carried on in connection with the Chambers Street Chapel, and will cheerfully coöperate with Mr. Lothrop, the Superintendent of each department of the Chapel work, that the greatest efficiency may be given to all his efforts to do good, and carry out the aims of the Chapel.

XIV. These Rules may be altered or amended by vote of the Church at the regular business meeting, after one month's notice, given in such meeting.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

ADDRESS.

Beloved Friends:

You have presented yourselves before God, and this assembly, to make a solemn confession of your religious faith, and enter into covenant with God and his People. We trust that you have duly considered the nature of the professions you are about to make, and of the engagements into which

you are about to enter. They are of the most solemn import,—involving your highest interests for time and eternity.

You will now attend to the

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the Universe; a Being of perfect and adorable attributes.

That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice.

That the Godhead is revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that these three, equal in all divine attributes, are one God.

That God's eternal purposes respect all actual events; that in forming and executing them, he takes counsel only of himself, and that the principles and administration of his government, are holy, just, and good.

That man was originally holy; but that, by sinning against God, he fell from that state; and that, in consequence of the fall, all mankind are

by nature destitute of holiness, and disposed to sin.

That Jesus Christ, by his humiliation, sufferings, and death, has made an atonement sufficient for the redemption of all mankind; and that pardon and eternal life are, through him, sincerely offered to all.

That Repentance and Faith in Christ, are the only conditions on which any can avail themselves of the offers thus graciously made; and that all, while left to themselves, do refuse to comply with these conditions.

That the Holy Spirit, by his mighty power, influences men to comply with these conditions; and that those whom he renews, are "kept by the power of God, through faith unto Salvation."

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in a day of judgment; when all mankind shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body; and the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into Life Eternal.

Moreover, we believe that in this world the Lord Jesus Christ has a visible Church, the terms of admission to which, are a public profession of Faith in Christ, sustained by credible evidence.

That Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be observed in the Church to the end of the world; that none but members of the visible Church, in regular standing should partake of the Lord's Supper; and that only they and their households are proper subjects for the ordinances of Baptism.

Do you thus truly profess and heartily believe?

[*Baptism here administered.*]

You will now attend to the solemn form of Covenant.

COVENANT.

In the presence of God and this assembly, you do now solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be your God, the supreme object of your affections, and your portion forever. You cordially acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide.

You cheerfully devote yourselves to God, in the everlasting covenant of his Grace, consecrating all your Powers and Faculties to his service and Glory; and you promise, that, through the assistance of his Spirit, you will cleave to him as your

Chief Good; that you will give diligent attendance to his Word and Ordinances; that you will seek the honor and interest of his Kingdom; and that henceforth, "denying all ungodliness and every worldy lust, you will live soberly, righteously, and Godly in the word."

You do, also, now cordially join yourselves to this Church, and engage to submit to its rules of Government and discipline, to strive earnestly for its peace, edification, and purity, and to walk with its members in charity, faithfulness, circumspection, meekness, and sobriety.

This you profess, and engage.

[*The members of the Church will here rise.*]

In consequence of these professions and promises, we, the members of this Church, affectionately receive you to our communion, and, in the name of Christ, declare you entitled to all its privileges. We welcome you to this Fellowship with us in the blessing of the Gospel; and on our part engage to watch over you, and seek your edification, as long as you continue among us.

May the Lord guide you and preserve you till death, and at last receive you and us, to that blessed world where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. AMEN.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

MALES.

Barns, Samuel H.
Barstow, John F.
Howe, William F.
Hoyt, Thomas.
Lane, George H.
Root, Samuel H.
Savage, George.
Wells, Henry.
Wetmore, John W.
Wilder, Thomas.
Wyllie, William J.

FEMALES.

Barnes, Susan, Mrs.
Carter, Sarah, Mrs.
Coggin, Charlotte T. Mrs.
Colby, Mary A. Mrs.
Davis, Emma, Mrs.
Fernandez, Lucinda, Mrs.
Fletcher, Elizabeth P. Mrs.
George, Hannah, Mrs.
Howe, Abbie M. Mrs.
Hughes, Martha S. Mrs.
Martis, Sophronia, Mrs.
Miles, Abby, Mrs.
Root, Anna C. Mrs.
Savage, Emma, Mrs.
Sheridan, Olive, Mrs.
Treat, Harriet, Mrs.
Wetmore, Abby S. Mrs.
Wells, Martha, E. Mrs.
Wyllie, Emma N. Mrs.
Blaisdell, Sarah, Miss.
Robinson, Adelaide V. Miss.
Whitman, Sarah A. Miss.

ADDITIONS.

Brastow, Elizabeth, Mrs. . . . March 2, 1862.
Cutting, Helen M. Mrs. . . . . ,, ,,
Champney, Abagail, Mrs. . . . April 2, 1862.
Farnsworth, Rebecca, Mrs. . . ,, ,,
Morgan, Margaret, Mrs. . . . June 1, 1862.
Ray, Jane, Miss. . . . . ,, ,,
Smith, Abby E. Mrs. . . . . ,, ,,